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## Marine Corps League

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# Scuttlebutt

Newsletter of Westfield River Valley Detachment 141

Westfield, Massachusetts

Volume 65 Nos. 9-10

www.mclwrv141.

September-October 2010

## Marine Leaguers Hone Shooting Skills At PA Rifle Match



*Detachment 141 Junior Vice Commandant Joel B. (JB) Stern, left photo, aims in at rifle range target during a recent rifle match at Ft. Indiantown Gap, Pa.. He shot 195 for the day against an Ohio Leaguer who fired a perfect 200 points. In right photo, Detachment Web Sergeant Fred Shannon is coached by Bill Laird of Bob Smith Det. 784, Hummelstown, PA, as he prepares to fire from the prone position. Shannon, a Korean War veteran had never fired the M16 until that day. (MCL photos by Frank Real)*

### Two Day Shooting Event Draws 180 From Seven States

FT Indiantown Gap, Pa.—More than 180 Marine Corps League members turned out on a September weekend to demonstrate the tenet dating from 1774 that “every Marine is a rifleman.”

The match was the 31st in a series sponsored by the Department of Pennsylvania that began at a range at College Park and, except for one other year, has been held at the former Army base at Indiantown Gap, now a Pennsylvania National Guard base sporting World War II barracks that housed the Marine veterans and Guard members on duty that weekend.

Dave Pavey, a retired Marine combat photographer and master sergeant who as event chairman said an Ohio Marine veteran scored a perfect 200 points at the match. “There were a lot of 198’s, 197’s and 195’s. They can be attributed to several old snipers in the mix.”

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### Santa Leads Riders For TtT

More than 200 motorcycle riders from throughout New England turned out to support the annual Toys for Tots Drive and Marines Helping Marines See story and pictures on Page 3. (MCL photo by Frank Real)

# Commandant's Corner..

September has passed rapidly with another T4T/MHM Bike run complete and successful. I am back from the Italian travels and the elections are upon us, specifically our Det141 final nominations and election.

Nominated thus far are Brian Dupee -Cmdt, Dan Bishop -Sr. Vice, Bill Penkala -Jr. Vice, Don "Doc" Rivette JAG. Mike Burke -Adjutant, Marc Dunne-Paymaster. Nominations still open until 10/11/10 Monday meeting.

Since this is my last message I am looking forward to joining the Past Commandants in the rear. It hardly seems five years have passed that quickly.

New faces continue to be seen even with some older members coming back in the

fold.

The newer members include some still on active duty, some just returning to civilian status and some still drilling with the reserves. And not so long ago some new(?)WWII guys found their way into the Barracks. It is great to see such a mix since that is what we are about. It's not about big numbers, it's members that make us richer by their presence.

Programs are alive and well, from the winter Fund raiser, to the 4th of July Pig Roast, Westfield Fair, Toys For Tots, Bike Run to our children's party and skating party at Amelia every year. And of course we can't forget the DOGS. The Pack Leader does live here! We are in the parades, serving with the Vets at Leeds or the Soldiers Home, supporting



Francis J. Curnow

the Young Marines at Westover, or seeing our Marines off to war and welcoming them home...and giving many their final salute as we honor their service.

Marines know that Westfield River Valley is well known across the State of Massachusetts with many of our members serving in multiple positions in Det and State. I thank you all for your contributions, which are great, and urge you to continue your efforts that benefit so many.

Semper Fi, Fran Curnow



Range Conference

Fred Shannon, seated discusses M16 shooting strategy with JB Stern at Ft. Indian-town Gap, Pa., rifle range. (Frank Real photo)

## Scuttlebutt

Scuttlebutt is the official newsletter of Westfield River Valley, Detachment 141, Marine Corps League, and is intended only for the information of its members. Articles and photos do not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Marine Corps or the Marine Corps League. Detachment Headquarters is at 71 North Elm St., Westfield, MA 01085. 413--562-4850. Items for publication should be dropped off at the headquarters or by contacting the editor. For current events and up to date calendar items go to our Web Site at [www.mclwrv141.com](http://www.mclwrv141.com)

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## Riders Collect Toys, Funds For Needy Children And Wounded

Nearly 175 motorcycle riders from all over New England collected more than 250 new toys and \$1,500, plus a \$300 donation from Westfield Bank, for the Marine Corps Reserve's annual Toys for Tots drive and Marines Helping Marines fund, respectively, during the annual Ride sponsored by Detachment 141 on September 18. The ride started in Agawam with stops at the VA's Hospital Facility at Leeds, Northampton, the Holyoke Soldiers' Home and ended at the Westfield Fair Grounds where riders and guests enjoyed refreshments. Above left, riders start the run at American Legion Post 185 and the Headquarters Restaurant on Springfield St., Agawam. In center photo, Westfield Mayor Daniel M. Knapik, left, and State Rep. Donald F. Humason, Jr. (R-Westfield), talk with Iwo Jima veteran and former Det. 141 Commandant Donald Dorrington of Cummington. In right photo, Santa Claus (Steven Phillips of Westfield) joins the riders in the chow line at the Fair Grounds. (MCL photos by Frank Real)

## FT. Indiantown Gap, PA's Range Scene Of 31st Annual Service Rifle Match

(Continued from Page 1)

The shooters, Marine veterans from Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania and West Virginia, spent two days reliving their time on active duty when they were required to qualify on the rifle range, first at boot camp and then annually at their duty stations, except when they manned the front lines in wars from Korea through Afghanistan.

Korean War Veteran and Det. 141 Web Sergeant Fred Shannon of West Springfield, had not fired a rifle in more than 50 years, when the weapon of the day was the M1 developed at the Springfield Armory.

"At boot camp at Parris Island, S.C. in 1952, our whole



platoon qualified at the rifle range, we graduated as the Honor Platoon and were all promoted to Private First Class. Another Det. 141 shooter, Junior Vice Commandant Joel B. (JB) Stern, fired a 195 at the PA match. He is a member of the Naval Reserve, a member of its rifle team and has travelled to such events including the national matches at Camp Perry, Ohio.

Facing that shooting expertise, Shannon was determined to outscore Stern or

"at least do as good," even though he hadn't fired an M16, a much different rifle than the M1.

"It was overpowering as I did not want to make a mistake in front of my peers."

Fred had good coaching from Ron Smith of Penn-York Det. 445 of Towanda, Pa., and Billy Laird of Bob Smith Det. 784, Hummelston, Pa. "They helped me overcome my anxiety."

Shannon shot a respectable 140 points, not as good as the "expert" badge he received as a Marine Reservist in 1955.

The chant of "ready on the right, ready on the left. All ready on the firing line fell on familiar ears and echoed across the Pennsylvania hills.

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## Calendar Of Events

**Oct. 11: Detachment Meeting. Election and installation of officers.  
 Dinner 6 pm. Meeting 7 pm.**

**Nov. 6 : Marine Corps Ball , MassMutual Center, Spfld., sponsored  
 by Mass. 6. Sgt. Phillips will be at Oct. 11 Det. Meeting with tickets,  
 \$45. per person.**

**Nov. 7: 104th Infantry Memorial Service, Westfield. 10 a.m.**

**Nov. 10: 235 Marine Corps Birthday. Semper Fi luncheon, Boston.  
 12 noon. Tickets \$85. per. See Fran Curnow.**

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